

Serial No. 10/606,957

ASA-994-03

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 26-29 are pending.

Claims 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ito, U.S. 4,493,278 (Ito).

The present invention sets first and second data lines to different precharge potentials, as described, for example, on pages 6-10 of the specification. As now claimed, the semiconductor integrated circuit of the invention includes a precharge circuit for precharging the first data line to a first final precharge potential and precharging the second data line to a second final precharge potential different from the first final precharge potential, such that when the memory cell of the semiconductor integrated circuit is selected, the voltage potential of the first data line is at the first final precharge potential and the voltage potential of the second data line is at the second final precharge potential. In other words, when the memory cell is selected, the first and second data lines are at different potentials.

In contrast, Ito discloses complementary data lines D0, /D0 connected, respectively, to Vcc and Vss for precharging. Ito discloses that the complementary data lines

Serial No. 10/606,957

ASA-994-03

are at V_{cc} and V_{ss} , respectively, when the precharge potential is low, but are set to final precharge levels of $V_{cc}/2$, each, by setting an equalizing potential high. Therefore, at the end of the precharge operation (corresponding to the circuit being prepared to begin read and write operations), the complementary data lines are at the same precharge level. See Figure 10 of Ito.

Therefore, Ito does not teach or suggest a precharge circuit for precharging the data lines to different respective final precharge potentials, such that when the memory cell is selected, the voltage potentials of the data lines are different.


Claims 26-29 were also rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 14-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,195. A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed to overcome this rejection, without admission as to its propriety.

Serial No. 10/606,957

ASA-994-03

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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